

PREFACE

Even though the Ninth Legislature of Texas passed a resolution for the printing of their journals, the act was never performed. Shortage of paper, lack of funds, and pressures of war all can be given as reasons for the hiatus. Now over a century has passed, and the remaining manuscript journals are housed in the Archives Division of the Texas State Library as historical documents. Through the archives publication program ordered by the legislature, they are placed in printed form for use by government officials, lawyers, and historians.

Some of the journals, particularly those of the House of Representatives, are missing, and if anyone has knowledge of the whereabouts of any of these documents the Archives staff would appreciate the information. It is hoped that these gaps can be filled, but the fact that such an important group of papers has been either lost or misplaced leads one to the inescapable conclusion that Texas must have an organized archival program. Had this been done in the past, the gaps probably would not now exist.

Evidence in the files shows that the journals have been slated for publication on two previous occasions. The first effort was made by E. W. Winkler when he was in the State Library, and that was followed by Miss Harriet Smith-er's attempt some twenty years ago. The fragmentary typescripts of those attempts have been located, but, because of their incompleteness, they were found to be of little value. Both efforts failed, no doubt, because of the shortage of staff and funds.

In compiling and editing this journal every effort has been made to keep the original "flavor" of the 1860's and at the same time make it an accurate, readable journal. The journal book from which the editing was accomplished looks to be in the handwriting of Phineas de Cordova, the Secretary of the Senate, and it understandably has many inaccuracies and unreconciled figures in it. The editor has aimed at standardizing the spelling of such items as the names of persons and towns and at giving the correct tabulation of votes in brackets [] when necessary. Footnotes have been added only when deemed necessary for a fuller explanation of an event. Sometimes the journal referred to

an address by the Governor, but the speech of the chief executive was not included. When that was found to be the case, efforts were made to locate the proper oration and place it in context in the printed version. Efforts were also made to locate other pertinent documents, but these usually met with no success. The illustrations included are photographs of senators and of the location of the proceedings. It is hoped that they add a bit of the color of the period.

This preface could not be closed without expressing appreciation to Irene Sanchez, Mary Osburn, Jimlu Townsend, and Donna Yarbrough who kept the reference work going and allowed the time necessary for completing such a work as this. To Stephen B. Oates and Albert Perdue, Jr. thanks is given for assistance in compiling the index.

James M. Day

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Director of State Archives